Investigator questions probe of King slaying

By DAVID C. MARTIN
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The prosecution's failure to obtain a full confession from James Earl Ray in return for accepting his guilty plea in the murder of Dr. Martin Luther King was "most unusual," Richard A. Sprague, chief counsel of the House Committee on Assassinations, said Tuesday.

"When arrangements were made for Ray to plead guilty, the law enforcement agencies never made as part of their plea bargain that there be a full interrogation or full confession by Ray," Sprague said.

THIS "is most unusual where somebody is pleading guilty to the murder of an individual and questions have arisen as to whether others were behind it," he added.

During a breakfast meeting with reporters, Sprague, who is directing the House investigation into the King murder and the slaying of President John F. Kennedy, outlined his plans for simultaneous investigations into the murders.

He said they will require a staff of 170 persons.

HE COMPARED it to the Warren Commission's investigation of the Kennedy assassination, which utilized 83 staff members and had the assistance of 150 FBI agents, 60 Secret Service agents and 15 CIA officers.

"The goal is to show what some dedicated professionals can do," Sprague said.

Sprague said the staff will check testimony with lie detector and voice stress tests.

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